Executive Summary

4.   Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?

5.   Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

There are two action items presented for council consideration under these questions.

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The staff recommends that the council accept the final productivity reports of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Lexington Community College. (For details, see page 61.)
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The technical colleges of the KCTCS were excluded from this review because they have no degree programs more than four years old. Programs that granted an average of fewer than 12 degrees per year were identified by the council staff as potentially having low productivity. This involved 32 of 146 programs offered by the KCTCS and LCC. The KCTCS is closing five programs and changing 18 in response to the review. LCC has justified its three programs as

important to students in its service region even though they do not confer an average of 12 degrees per year.

The KCTCS board of regents approved last month a policy providing for annual reviews of academic programs to improve efficiency and service to students. The council's productivity reviews will be helped by efforts like these at the institutional level.

As part of its delegation of responsibility to the universities and the KCTCS, the council authorized institutions to initiate programs within broad bands of the curriculum without council approval. Changes in the level of degree conferred, programs that would alter the mission of the institution, or entry into whole new fields of study were reserved by the council for its approval. Teacher education programs also were reserved because of their immediate importance to education reform in Kentucky.

An on-line system of posting proposed degree programs so they can be reviewed by all colleges and universities, both public and private, prior to their being initiated has produced generally good results. Since its opening, 75 program proposals have been posted on-line; of these, 52 have begun. During this same time the universities closed 157 programs and the KCTCS has indicated that it will close five. The council staff is meeting with each institution this spring to

review campus program approval procedures, simply to ensure that they are appropriately vigorous. A report on new programs begins on page 63.

Council chair Chuck Whitehead, EKU President Joanne Glasser, Provost Michael Marsden, Dean Gary Cordner, KYVU CEO Daniel Rabuzzi, and I will participate in the virtual groundbreaking for EKU's on-line master's degree program in loss prevention and safety. This program has been developed by EKU for students nationwide and throughout the world. It will be developed by the Kentucky Virtual University. EKU developed the program using $225,000 awarded to it from the KYVU revolving loan fund to cover part of the expenses.

In November 2001, the Kentucky Virtual University requested proposals for development of on-line programs to be partially funded from the KYVU revolving loan fund. This fund, about $1.5 million, is available to institutions that want to develop Web-based programs. The institutions reimburse the fund from revenues generated by the programs. The KYVU received seven applications seeking a total of $826,000 and expects to announce funding recipients by March 15. One recipient is the EKU master's degree in loss prevention and safety.

> The staff recommends that the council amend the 2002-04 list of eligible programs for agency bond authority to include the University of Louisville's $4.7 million fiber optic project and Western Kentucky University's $1.5 million materials characterization center renovation project. (For details, see page 67.)

Western Kentucky University and the University of Louisville have requested that the council amend the 2002-04 list of projects eligible for agency bond authority. The WKU project is the renovation of space in its Center for Research and Development to be suitable for applied materials research. The project at the University of Louisville involves a fiber optic cable link with the University of Kentucky for high-speed data transmission. It is important to research collaboration between the two institutions and has ancillary benefits to other participants in the Kentucky Information Highway.